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**Possible Amendments for discussion with Examiner Robert Kelly
U.S. Appl. No. 10/529,010
(Sent by fax on August 19, 2010)**

Proposed claims

88. (New) A process for preparing and storing particles suitable for delivery from a particle-mediated delivery device, comprising:

(i) depositing a nucleic acid on inert metal carrier particles in the presence of a least:

(a) a homopolymer of arginine of the formula (Arg)_x, wherein x is from 2 to 10, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a metal ion chelating agent selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) and diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA); and

(c) a sugar;

(ii) drying the particles to a powder; and

(iii) storing the dried particles for at least 7 days before delivery from a particle-mediated delivery device.

89. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the dried particles are stored at a temperature in the range of about 4°C to about 60 °C for at least 7 days before delivery from a particle-mediated delivery device.

90. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the dried particles are stored for at least 14 days before delivery from a particle-mediated delivery device.

91. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the dried particles are stored for at least 8 weeks before delivery from a particle-mediated delivery device.

92. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the metal ion chelating agent is EDTA.

93. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the sugar is trehalose or sucrose.